

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-10 IO-14
L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-05 SP-02
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R 151518Z JUN 78
FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2953
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INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK POUCH

UNCLAS MBFR VIENNA 0342

FROM US REP MBFR

FOR ACDA LUCAS FISCHER

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PARM NATO
SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: EASTERN OPENING PRESS BRIEFING
STATEMENT OF JUNE 8, 1978

THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF COMMENTS BY EASTERN SPOKESMAN AT
172ND POST PLENARY PRESS BRIEFING OF JUNE 8. BEGIN TEXT:

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(SOVIET DELEGATION SPOKESMAN A. SEMMENIKOV)

1. IN HIS SPEECH AT TODAY'S PLENARY SESSION THE HEAD OF THE
DELEGATION OF THE SOVIET UNION, AMB TARASOV, PRESENTED IMPORTANT
NEW PROPOSALS OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, THE POLISH
PEOPLES REPUBLIC, THE SOVIET UNION AND THE CZECHOSLOVAK
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC. THIS INITIATIVE OF THE SOCIALIST STATES

IS A REPLY TO THE PROPOSALS OF THE WESTERN COUNTRIES OF APRIL 19, 1978, AND REFLECTS THE PRACTICAL, CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH OF THE WARSAW PACT PARTICIPANTS FOR THE SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM OF THE REDUCTION OF FORCES AND ARMAMENTS IN CENTRAL EUROPE. OUR POSITION IN THIS QUESTION HAS BEEN PRECISELY EXPRESSED BY THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE CPSU AND CHAIRMAN OF THE PRESIDUM OF THE SUPREME SOVIET OF THE USSR, LEONID BREZHNEV, IN HIS SPEECH OF THE 25TH OF APRIL THIS YEAR, IN WHICH HE SAID: "WE ARE PREPARED TO DO EVERYTHING THAT DEPENDS UPON US IN ORDER TO FIND MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS IN ORDER TO WEAKEN MILITARY TENSION IN THIS AREA WHERE IT IS PARTICULARLY HIGH AND DANGEROUS."

2. THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOCIALIST STATES, DIRECT PARTICIPANTS IN THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS, HAVE MADE DECLARATIONS REGARDING THEIR DESIRE TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE IN THIS DIRECTION FROM THE TRIBUNE OF THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS ON DISARMAMENT WHICH IS NOW GOING ON. THE NEW PROPOSALS OF THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES ESTABLISH A REAL BASIS FOR THE ELABORATION OF A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE AGREEMENT ON THE REDUCTION OF FORCES AND ARMAMENTS IN CENTRAL EUROPE. WHICH WOULD NOT DIMINISH THE SECURITY OF THE STATES WHICH ARE TAKING PART IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. IN THE INTERESTS OF REACHING OF AN AGREEMENT, THE INITIATIVE OF THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES CONSTRUCTIVELY TAKES INTO ACCOUNT MANY ASPECTS OF THE WESTERN POSITION, INCLUDING SOME OF THOSE PUT FORWARD BY THE WEST ON APRIL 19 THIS YEAR.

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3. THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES HAVE DECLARED THEIR AGREEMENT TO THE ESTABLISHING, AS THE OUTCOME OF THE REDUCTION, OF EQUAL COLLECTIVE LEVELS FOR THE NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE NATO AND THE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES IN CENTRAL EUROPE; THAT IS, FOR EACH 900,000 MEN INCLUDING 700,000 GROUND FORCES. THEY HAVE STATED THEIR PREPAREDNESS TO LIMIT THE REDUCTION OF THE NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF THE ARMED FORCES TO GROUND FORCES, AND TO CARRY OUT A SELECTIVE REDUCTION AND LIMITATION OF THE ARMAMENTS TO SUCH TYPES OF ARMAMENTS AS HAVE BEEN NAMED BY THE WESTERN SIDE FOR REDUCTION BY THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION IN THE FIRST STAGE.

4. THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES HAVE ALSO PROPOSED THAT IN THAT STAGE THE SOVIET UNION AND THE USA SHOULD REDUCE THEIR GROUND FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE BY AN EQUAL PERCENT, THAT IS, PROPORTIONAL TO THEIR NUMERICAL STRENGTH IN THE GIVEN REGION AS THE WEST HAS BEEN DEMANDING.

5. AT THE SAME TIME, THE NEW PROPOSALS PRESERVE THOSE FUNDAMENTALLY IMPORTANT ELEMENTS IN THE POSITION OF THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES WITHOUT WHICH THERE CAN NOT BE ENSURED A TRULY

EFFECTIVE AND EQUIVALENT REDUCTION OF FORCES AND ARMAMENTS IN CENTRAL EUROPE. THIS MEANS, ABOVE ALL, RECOGNITION AS THE POINT OF DEPARTURE FOR THE AGREEMENT ON A REDUCTION OF FORCES OF THAT REAL FACT THAT IN CENTRAAL EUROPE THERE HAS GROWN UP AND THERE EXISTS AN APPROXIMATE PARITY IN THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF THE ARMED FORCES OF NATO AND THE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES.

6. THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES ALSO COME OUT FOR CONCRETE AND SPECIFIC PARTICIPATION IN THE REDUCTION OF ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS OF ALL STATES PARTICIPATING DIRECTLY IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, THAT IS, EACH OF THEM WOULD BRING TO THE REDUCTION, ITS OWN INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTION CORRESPONDING TO ITS MILITARY POTENTIAL.

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7. IN CONCLUSION, THE HEAD OF THE SOVIET DELEGATION EXPRESSED HIS FIRM CONVICTION THAT THIS NEW CONSTRUCTIVE STEP OF THE SOCIALIST STATES, IF IT MEETS WITH A POSITIVE REACTION BY THE WESTERN COUNTRIES WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO EFFECT A BREAKTHROUGH AT THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS AND TO TRANSFER THEM INTO THE SPHERE OF THE PRACTICAL ELABORATION OF AN AGREEMENT. END TEXT.RESOR

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